

PM: I was joking with Barisan

MPs

BANGI, Tues. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today said he was merely joking with Barisan Nasional backbenchers when he said their performance would be evaluated for re-nomination in the coming general election.

"I was joking with them ... I was not giving them a warning," he said in reply to questions by newsmen after opening a management ethics seminar.

The Prime Minister was asked to elaborate on his statement last night that the Government had appointed Barisan Nasional officials to evaluate the performance of its MPs for re-nomination in the coming general election.

Reports

In his address at the Malam Sekalung Budi dinner organised by Government backbenchers, Dr Mahathir was quoted as saying that BN MPs would be monitored by the Secretary to the Dewan Rakyat who would submit reports on every MP.

Asked how many MPs would be re-nominated, Dr Mahathir said there was a number of factors to determine whether a person would be re-nominated.

"It will depend on whether the person is healthy or otherwise... there are a number of factors," he said.